

comprises obtaining image information from a first information channel; obtaining image information from at least one additional information channel, wherein at least a portion of the information from the at least one additional information channel includes information associated with the information obtained from the first channel; transforming the image information obtained from the at least one additional information channel to obtain transformed image information associated with the first channel; and combining at least a portion of the transformed image information associated with the first information channel with at least a portion of the information from the first information channel to obtain corrected image information associated with the first information channel.

Therefore, as required by claim 15, image information from a first information channel and from at least one additional information channel are obtained. Thereafter, the image information obtained from the at least one additional information channel is transformed to obtain transformed image information, and this transformed image information is combined with the first information channel. In a feature of the present invention as described, for example, on pages 14 and 16 of the application, the processor of the present invention filters the image information to remove noise from a current non-primary information channel more than the information from the primary color channel. As an example, if the current primary color channel is the red information channel, then the processor will filter the information from the red channel less than the information from the green and blue channels. This is also described on page 16 with reference to Fig. 4 which illustrates the relationship between the primary channels and the non-primary channels and the appropriate filtering in accordance with the present invention. The features of the present invention as noted above are not believed to be shown or suggested in the reference to Edgar et al. '086. As an example, reference is made to Fig. 5 and col. 7, lines 35-45 of Edgar et al. '086 which illustrate and describe that the green pixel, red pixel and blue pixel are passed through a high pass filter. There does not appear to be a teaching or suggestion in Edgar et al. '086 of the specific interrelationship of the method of claim 15 with respect to transforming image information from at least one additional information channel and combining this transformed information with information from a first information channel.

Accordingly, the reference to Edgar et al. '086 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the features of claim 15.

Claims 16-24 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15 and set forth additional unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied reference. Claims 16-20 and 23-24 set forth further features of the transforming step as including, for example, the

filtering of image information, and also set forth further features of the image information obtaining steps. Claims 21-22 set forth that either the at least one information channel or the first channel is substantially altered before combining. For the reasons noted above, the applied reference is not believed to show or suggest these features of the present invention.

The same arguments as noted above with respect to claim 15 also apply to claim 25 which relates to a digital file tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium. Claim 25 requires the steps of obtaining image information from a first information channel and at least one additional information channel; transforming the image information obtained from the at least one additional information channel; and combining this information with at least a portion of information from a first information channel to obtain corrected image information. The reference to Edgar et al. '086 as described above is not believed to show or suggest these features of the present invention.

Claims 26-34 depend from claim 25 and set forth additional unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied reference. As an example, claim 26 sets forth information regarding the filtering of image information, while claim 30 requires that the image information obtained from the first information channel be substantially unaltered before combining. These features as well as the other features of the above-noted dependent claims are not believed to be shown or suggested in the reference to Edgar et al. '086.

Claim 35 relates to an image processing system and requires that a program include instructions to enable the transformation of image information obtained from at least one additional channel to obtain transformed image information, and that this transformed information is be combined with at least a portion of information obtained from a first information channel. For the reasons noted above with respect to claims 15 and 25, the reference to Edgar et al. '086 is not believed to show or suggest this feature of the present invention.

Claims 36-46 set forth additional unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the reference to Edgar et al. '086.

Accordingly, the reference to Edgar et al. '086 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claims 15-46.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 15-46 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David A. Novais", is written over a horizontal line.

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